

17.(canceled)

18.(new) The frame of claim 16 wherein the protrusion includes at least first and second flat bearing surfaces that are spaced from one another by a convex surface of the side wall such that any force on the protrusion is distributed to spaced areas of the opposing face of the tubular fixing element.

19.(new) A weaving machine, the weaving machine comprising at least one heald frame, the at least one heald frame including two posts and two cross members, each of the cross members supporting a heald carrying bar, connector means for securing at least one post relative to at least one corresponding cross member, the connector means including a tubular fixing element seated within a housing indented within a front face of the cross member, the tubular element defining an internal volume in which a protrusion from the at least one post is received, securing means for securing the tubular fixing element within the housing of the at least one cross member, and retention means for retaining the protrusion within the internal volume of the tubular fixing element.